

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 14, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write to express our strong support for Baltimore County and Tradepoint Atlantic's (TPA) grant application under the newly established Port Infrastructure Development Program for seaport-related projects.

Located at Sparrows Point on the Chesapeake Bay in Baltimore County, Maryland, TPA is a 3,300-acre multimodal global logistics and maritime industrial site leveraging the Port's unique combination of deep-water berths, rail infrastructure, and interstate highway connectivity. After purchasing the site in 2014, TPA is in the process of revitalizing the waterfront parcel – once home to a historic steel mill – into a world-class, state-of-the-art global trade and logistics center. With Sparrows Point at full operational capacity, TPA is projected to generate 10,000 permanent skilled construction, manufacturing, and distribution jobs at the redevelopment site.

Funding from the Port Infrastructure Development Program is essential to adequately support the infrastructure upgrades necessary for TPA to increase shipping capacity and operational efficiency to spur economic growth throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. Specifically, funding is needed to upgrade the Port's bulk and liquids import and export terminals to reliably handle the transfer of materials, including the construction of a rail loop, storage domes for bulk dry storage, and conveyor systems. Additional terminal maintenance activities will include addressing the Port's finger pier, the heavy-duty road network, primary utilities, and other facility developments. An additional facet of the 2020 grant application will include improvements to the onsite rail (i.e., short rail) with updates to existing track and turnouts and onsite switches for better handling of bulk materials and increased efficiency and safety. When combined together, these improvements will greatly improve TPA's ability to handle new types of commodities that support manufacturing and other industries in the region.

Today, TPA continues to be an exemplary project that serves as a model of a public-private partnership for interconnected trade and modern transportation logistics. We ask that you give full consideration to the Baltimore County and TPA application for the Port Infrastructure Development Program grant for this critical, nationally strategic, landmark industrial revival.

Sincerely,

/s/

Steny H. Hoyer
United States Representative

/s/

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
United States Representative

/s/

John P. Sarbanes
United States Representative

/s/

Andy Harris, M.D.
United States Representative

/s/

Anthony G. Brown
United States Representative

/s/

Jamie Raskin
United States Representative

/s/

Davis J. Trone
United States Representative